

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

WEATHER PROGRAMS

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is the central agency within the federal government responsible for emergency preparedness training and exercises, mitigation, response, and recovery. Working closely with state and local governments, FEMA funds and provides leadership for pre-disaster mitigation activities, emergency programs and offers technical guidance and training. FEMA also coordinates federal disaster relief resources following catastrophic disasters. These Presidentially-declared activities ensure a broad-based program to protect life and property and provide recovery assistance after a disaster. The agency was formed in 1979 by Presidential Executive Order 12127, replacing five former agencies and consolidating the Nation's emergency-related programs, including meteorological emergencies.

In carrying out its role, FEMA works with all of the agencies to assure that the delivery of meteorology-related information is conducted in keeping with established goals and objectives. As administrator of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), FEMA publishes Flood Insurance Rate Maps for all flood-prone communities, which serve as the official demarcation for flood risk. FEMA administers the National Hurricane Program and, for regions subject to hurricanes, publishes hurricane evacuation maps based on model simulation results from the National Weather Service's National Hurricane Center.

FEMA's priority interests with OFCM are in supporting FEMA's pre-disaster initiatives (including *Project Impact*) and in promoting standards and procedures which will enhance the ability of the Nation to mitigate and recover from emergencies and disasters. These interests extend to national standards for geographic information systems (GIS) used for delivery of meteorological products and services by other agencies. FEMA also actively supports the OFCM-sponsored Working Group for Post-Storm Data Acquisition (WG/PSDA) and the WG/PSDA's efforts to develop a *National Plan for Post-Storm Data*

Acquisition to coordinate and support the collection, by the federal agencies, of perishable data after major storms. These data have potential applications in post-disaster mitigation activities, the NFIP flood hazard analysis, the FEMA National Hurricane Program hurricane evacuation studies, and other FEMA's risk analysis activities, such as the Multi-Hazard Loss Estimation Methodology (HAZUS). The Technical Services Division is the principal contact for hurricane evacuation studies and flood risk analysis as well as the FEMA contact point for meteorology-related matters. (www.fema.gov) (Figure 3-FEMA-1).



Figure 3-FEMA-1. FEMA Building performance assessment team viewing a damaged structure on Dauphin Island, Alabama.